



December 17, 2021

Abbie Sherman, VEGI Executive Director
One National Life Drive
Deane C. Davis Building, 6th Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Dear Ms. Sherman,

I am writing this letter to extend the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region's (CEDRR) full support of the Town of Killington's application for a Tax Increment Finance District. The proposed development that accompanies the plan will address significant economic development infrastructure needs that will allow for transformative economic growth for the Town of Killington. This proposal aligns with the economic development goals of the State of Vermont, as well as the goals of the Rutland County region.

With this project, significant water system upgrades will open up new opportunities for development that have been stymied by a lack of infrastructure. Of particular interest and importance to CEDRR will be the opportunity for the development of affordable workforce housing. Like many regions of the state, Rutland County has significant "old stock" housing that needs costly investment or demolition. As a result, new arrivals to the area find it to be very difficult to find housing. This often deters people from taking employment positions, for which there are many, at local businesses and within local industries where their skills are desperately needed.

Compounding the lack of a pool of skilled employees is the fact that Rutland County has an aging workforce, which is not being replaced as rapidly as positions are being created. This has stalled economic growth. The TIF District application comes at a time when regional partners are coming together to implement strategies around economic development and tourism marketing. In partnership with our stakeholders, CEDRR has organized a regional marketing effort with the goal of increasing the region's population and workforce. Killington is at the heart of the initiative's "destination location" marketing strategy. Quality of life is the key ingredient to attracting the workforce that is desperately needed. Outdoor recreation and quality housing stock are essential and in demand from the workforce of the future. The Town of Killington, and the resort community it serves, are essential to our economic success.

The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region urges you to assist in the future success of our communities, businesses and most importantly, our families as we all work together to improve our economy. The TIF District is a tool that is available and is needed now. But for this tool, the economy in the region will continue to languish. With the tool, we are confident the region will prosper and will be an economic engine for the entire State of Vermont. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lyle P. Jepson
Executive Director